(ख) क्या सरकार उत्तर प्रदेश में कानून और व्यवस्था की स्थिति की जांच के लिए वहां कोई संसदीय दल भेजेगी; और

(ग) उत्तर प्रदेश में हो रहे अराधों का केन्द्रीय सरकार पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ता है?

गृह मंत्री (श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी): (क) पंचायती चुनावों के दौरान जनता के कुछेक वर्गो के विरुद्ध किए गए आपराध के विशिष्ट मामलों की जांच करने और जनता में विश्वास की भावना पैदा करने के लिए राज्य सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों की जांच करने के लिए जून, 1998 में एक केन्द्रीय दल को पश्चिम बंगाल भेजा गया था।

(ख) ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचारधीन नहीं है।

(ग) अपराधों की जांच करना और उन्हें रोकने की जिम्मेदारी अनिवार्य रुप से राज्य सरकारों की है। राज्य में हो रहे अपराधों और केन्द्र सरकार पर उसके प्रभाव के बीच कोई सीधा या आवश्यक संबंध नहीं दिखायी पड़ता है।

Privatisation of Generation and distribution of Electricity

*515. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whettier Government have a proposal to privatise *tht* generation and distribution of electricity;

(b) if so, the response of the private sector thereto;

(c) the states where these have been privatised so far; and

(d) the policy of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM):(a) to (d) The existing policy of the Government permits private sector participation in the gneration and distribution of electricity. The response of the private generating companies has been quite encouraging with projects having been/being set up in different parts of the country. A number of states have proposed to set up generating companies in the private sector. The Central Electricity Authority has approved private generating power projects in the states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, West Bengal and Bihar.

Distribution of Electricity is the responsibility of the State Government and the private distribution companies operate in the states as licensees. The existing private licensee companies are operating in certain specified areas in the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. Government of India is in favour of greater private participation in distribution so as to induct more resources into the Sector and improve the services to the consumers.

1984 Convention against torture and Inhuman punishment

*516. PROF. A. LAKSHMI SAGAR:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sometime in December 1994, the National Human Rights Commission had suggested Gov ernment to accept the 1984 convention against torture and other inhuman and degrading treatment of punishment;

(b) if so, considering tlie fact that torture leading to deaths in judicial custody by investigating authorities has been on the increase. Government have consi-. dered the question of ratifying the international convention against torture with a view to bring about reforms in the system;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if answer to (b) is in negative, whether Government propose to consider the matter?